

REMARKS

With this Amendment, Applicant amends Claims 6 and 14 and cancels Claims 1-5, 7-13, 15, and 16. Therefore, Claims 6 and 14 are all the claims currently pending in the present Application.

IDS

Applicant notes that the Examiner has still not returned a signed and initialed copy of the PTO-Form 1449 submitted with Applicant's IDS of January 13, 2005. Applicant again requests that the Examiner consider the references cited in the January 13 IDS and return a signed and initialed copy of the PTO-Form 1449 with the next Office correspondence.

Allowable Subject Matter

The Examiner indicates that Claims 6 and 14 contain allowable subject matter and would be allowed if rewritten into independent form including the limitations from which they depend.

With this Amendment, Applicant rewrites Claims 6 and 14 into independent form. Rewritten Claim 6 includes the limitations of Claims 1, 2, and 5. Rewritten Claim 14 includes the limitations of Claims 9, 10, and 13.

Therefore, Applicant respectfully requests the allowance of Claims 6 and 14.

Claim Rejections

Claims 4 and 12 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph as allegedly indefinite. Claim 1 stands rejected as allegedly anticipated by Kosaka, U.S. Patent No. 6,574,209. Claims 2, 5, 7, 8, 10, 13, 15, and 16 stand objected to as allegedly unpatentable over

Kosaka. Claims 3, 4, 9, 11, and 12 stand rejected as allegedly unpatentable over Kosaka, in view of Ito, U.S. Patent No. 6,408,039.


With this Amendment, Applicant cancels Claims 1-5, 7-13, 15, and 16.

Conclusion

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned attorney at the telephone number listed below.

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,


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